GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HOME AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2227
ANSWERED ON:14.12.2004
ABUSE OF PHARMA PRODUCTS
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Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the narcotic Control Bureau has sought the help of Pharma firms to check abuse of pharma products and medicines that has acquired alarming level in the country;

(b) if so, the details of the products;

(c) the name of such companies and their response thereto;

(d) the action proposed to be taken against the pharma companies for their non-cooperation; and

(e) the steps being taken to check smuggling of these products to the neighbouring countries?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI S. REGUPATHY)

(a)&(b): Narcotics Control Bureau (NCB) had consulted certain pharmaceutical companies and associations for evolving steps to prevent abuse of certain psychotropic pharmaceuticals such as viz., Proxyvon, Phensydyl/Corex, Buprenorphine, Diazepam, Nitrazepam, lorazepam, Tidigesic, Dentroprophoxyphene.

(c)to(e): The names of companies and associations consulted by NCB are as under:

(i) Organisation of Pharmaceutical Producers of India.

(ii) Indian Drug Manufacturers Association.

(iii) M/s Rusan Healthcare Pvt. Ltd.

(iv) M/s Neon Laboratories Ltd.

(v) M/s Ranbaxy Lab Ltd.

(vi) M/s Nicholas Piramal Ltd.

Most of the companies have been quite responsive and cooperative in the matter. The steps taken by the Government to check smuggling of these products inter alia are as follows:

(i) Strict surveillance and enforcement at import and export points, land borders, airports, foreign post offices etc.

(ii) Intensive preventive and interdiction efforts along known drug routes;

(iii) Improved coordination between the various drug law enforcement agencies in order to impart greater cohesion to interdiction;

(iv) Strengthening of international liaison to improve the collection, analysis and dissemination of operational intelligence;

(v) Building of an electronic data base of offenders;

(vi) Passenger profiling for identification of members of trafficking groups;

(vii) Conducting training programmes for law enforcement officials for upgrading their skills to combat drug trafficking.